



SOUTHEAST IDAHO

BANNOCK, BEAR LAKE, BINGHAM, CARIBOU, FRANKLIN, ONEIDA, & POWER COUNTIES

EMPLOYMENT TRENDS

In March 2003 the Pocatello Metropolitan Statistical Areas (MSA) seasonally adjusted unemployment rate was 5.1 percent, as shown in Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force and Employment. This was one-tenth of a percentage point less than February 2003 and 1.5 percent less than March 2002. The area's unemployment rate was four-tenths of a percentage point below Idaho's unemployment rate of 5.5 percent and seven-tenths of a percentage point below the U.S. unemployment rate of 5.8 percent.

Mild weather in March 2003 allowed agricultural and construction activities to begin earlier than in March 2002, boosting employment this year.

Nonfarm Payroll Jobs decreased slightly (0.2 percent) in March 2003 from February 2003. Job losses occurred in both the *Goods-Producing* and *Service-Producing* sectors. In the *Goods-Producing Industries*, which include *Natural Resources & Mining*, *Construction*, and *Manufacturing*, job losses in *Manufacturing* (20) slightly outpaced job gains in *Construction* (10) for an overall decrease of 10 jobs. The *Service-Producing Industries*, which include *Trade, Transportation & Utilities*, *Information*, *Financial Activities*, *Professional & Business Service*, *Educational & Health Services*, *Leisure & Hospitality*, *Government Education*, and *Government Administration*, lost 60 jobs in March 2003 from February 2003. Job gains and losses followed typical patterns for this time of year when weather has a large impact on the labor market. *Wholesale Trade* (20) and *Retail Trade* (30) gained jobs in March as preparation for the spring and summer retail season began. At the same time, the railroad laid off nearly 20 workers, offsetting some of the overall gains in the *Trade, Transportation & Utilities* industry. Pocatello hosted the Dodge National Circuit Finals Rodeo in March, which added jobs in *Leisure & Hospitality* (20), but those job gains were offset by job losses in *Finance Activities* (20), *Professional & Business Service* (40), *Government Education* (60), and *Government Administration* (10). The major change was in *Government*

Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment
Pocatello City MSA (Bannock County)

	March 2003*	April 2003	March 2002	% Change From	
				Last Month	Last Year
INDIVIDUALS BY PLACE OF RESIDENCE					
Seasonally Adjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	40,710	40,250	39,070	1.1	4.2
Unemployment	2,070	2,100	2,580	-1.4	-19.8
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.1	5.2	6.6		
Total Employment	38,640	38,150	36,490	1.3	5.9
Unadjusted					
Civilian Labor Force	41,490	41,030	39,670	1.1	4.6
Unemployment	2,300	2,500	2,810	-8.0	-18.1
% of Labor Force Unemployed	5.5	6.1	7.1		
Total Employment	39,190	38,530	36,860	1.7	6.3
JOB BY PLACE OF WORK					
Nonfarm Payroll Jobs** - NAICS	33,600	33,670	32,900	-0.2	2.1
Goods-Producing Industries	4,320	4,330	4,100	-0.2	5.4
Natural Resources & Mining	10	10	10	0.0	0.0
Construction	1,670	1,660	1,420	0.6	17.6
Manufacturing	2,640	2,660	2,670	-0.8	-1.1
Food Manufacturing	430	430	480	0.0	-10.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	130	140	120	-7.1	8.3
Machinery Manufacturing	40	40	30	0.0	33.3
Other Manufacturing	2,040	2,050	2,040	-0.5	0.0
Service-Producing Industries	29,280	29,340	28,810	-0.2	1.6
Trade, Transportation & Utilities	6,740	6,710	6,610	0.4	2.0
Wholesale Trade	1,080	1,060	1,010	1.9	6.9
Retail Trade	4,410	4,380	4,320	0.7	2.1
Utilities	50	50	50	0.0	0.0
Transportation & Warehousing	1,200	1,220	1,210	-1.6	-0.8
Information	680	680	660	0.0	3.0
Financial Activities	1,700	1,720	1,780	-1.2	-4.5
Professional & Business Services	3,270	3,310	3,330	-1.2	-1.8
Educational & Health Services	2,720	2,700	3,030	0.7	-10.2
Leisure & Hospitality	3,230	3,210	3,090	0.6	4.5
Other Services	1,310	1,310	1,190	0.0	10.1
Government Education	5,490	5,550	5,620	-1.1	-2.3
Government Administration	4,140	4,150	3,490	-0.2	18.6

*Preliminary Estimate

**Full- or part-time jobs of people who worked for or received wages in the pay period including the 12th of the month

Education because the number of students employed in work-study programs at Idaho State University declined.

From one-year-ago, *Nonfarm Payroll Jobs* increased 2.1 percent. The change may be partially because of milder weather in March 2003 than in March 2002. Inclement weather in March 2002 delayed many spring activities that occurred in March 2003 such as construction and recreation. In March 2003 the *Goods-Producing Industries* outpaced March 2002 by 220 jobs. The job gains were exclusively in *Construction* because of residential projects and construction of the Idaho State University Performing Arts Center. In March 2003 the *Service-Producing Industries* outpaced March 2002 by 470 jobs. Most job gains were in *Wholesale and Retail Trade* (160), *Leisure & Hospitality* (140) and *Other Services* (120). Gains were partially offset by losses in *Transportation* because of

layoffs at the Union Pacific Railroad and decreases in *Government Education*. Southeast Idaho Table 1: Labor Force & Employment shows dramatic changes from March 2002 to March 2003 in *Education & Health Services*, down 310 jobs, and in *Government Administration*, which had an increase of 650 jobs. These changes are mostly because of the merger of the private hospital with the county-owned hospital where nearly 400 jobs moved from *Education & Health* to *Government Administration*. The remaining increase in *Government Administration* was because of added jobs in *Federal Government* for airport security and spring/summer related maintenance projects.

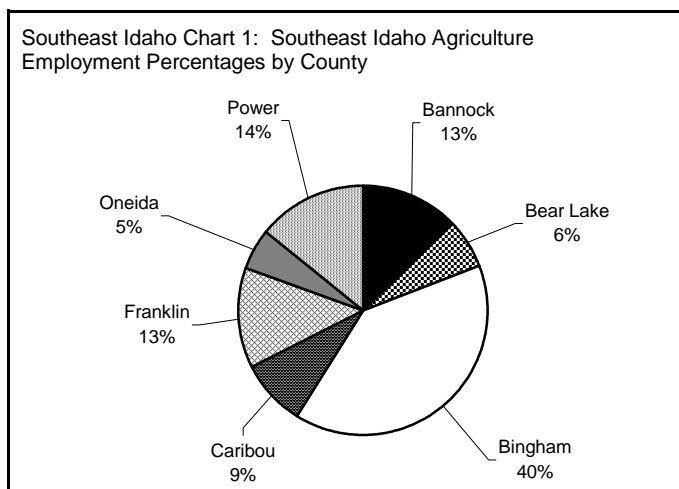
SPECIAL TOPIC:

Agricultural Employment

In March, signs of spring could be seen all over Southeast Idaho in the form of agricultural activities. Newborn calves, lambs, and colts could be seen in pastures throughout Southeast Idaho as well as field preparation for the 2003 crop-growing season.

Agriculture is a large industry in Idaho. The Idaho Department of Labor estimates agricultural employment to be approximately 5.5 percent of total annual average employment. It is particularly important to Southeast Idaho where it provides approximately 5.8 percent of the area's annual average employment. Agriculture employment includes operators, paid or unpaid family members, and hired workers.

Southeast Idaho Chart 1: Southeast Idaho Agriculture Employment Percentages by County shows that the largest percentage of agriculture employment in Southeast Idaho is in Bingham County at 40 percent. Many of the crops grown in Bingham County are labor-intensive, such as potatoes, sugar beets, and alfalfa. This requires hiring seasonal domestic workers as well as migrant workers who either migrate to the area to work during the crop-growing season or follow the crops from area to area, assisting with harvest.



Agriculture employment and its relative importance to an area vary from county to county within the Southeast Idaho region. Southeast Idaho Table 2: Agricultural Employment shows the relative importance of agriculture to

each county in the region. Power County has the highest proportion of agriculture employment when compared with total employment of any county in Southeast at 21.0 percent. Bannock County has the lowest at just 1.5 percent.

2002	Agriculture Employment	Total Employment	% of Total Employment
Bannock	553	36882	1.5
Bear Lake	274	2677	10.2
Bingham	1705	21422	8.0
Caribou	371	3025	12.3
Franklin	550	4877	11.3
Oneida	234	1624	14.4
Power	606	2890	21.0
Southeast Idaho	4293	73397	5.8

This year, agriculture faces familiar uncertainties: drought, increased costs of inputs, weather uncertainties, and fluctuating market prices. But area farmers and ranchers have proven, time and time again, their resilience and ability to make the best under adverse conditions.

AREA ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENTS

Please note: Information contained in Area Economic Developments is obtained from area newspapers, local Job Service offices, trade publications, local area Chambers of Commerce publications, and other sources.

Bannock County

- Global Food Technologies, Inc. in Pocatello announced it expects to hire approximately 200 people by the end of the year. The company recently received approval of patents for systems that reduce bacteria in seafood; it plans to produce similar systems for poultry and meat. Testing and manufacturing of these systems will be done in the Pocatello facility. The company plans to hire the first 30 people by mid-summer 2003.
- IHOP (International House of Pancakes) opened at 4122 Yellowstone Avenue in Chubbuck. The business, which opened in February, employs approximately 60 people.
- Funky-Junque, an antique store, opened at 1225 East Clark in Pocatello. Laura and Arden Olson own the store.
- A soccer specialty shop, Soccer Rockers, opened at 171 Jefferson in Pocatello. The family-owned and operated business specializes in clothing and equipment for soccer players and teams.
- Winward Physical Therapy has opened a clinic in McCammon. The clinic is open Tuesdays and Thursdays and offers rehabilitative, sports injury, and pain therapy.
- The Butcher Block Meat Company in Pocatello has expanded. The meat company, which provides meat

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THE CALL TO DUTY: A CES PERSPECTIVE

The following information provides an update on how to classify civilians called to active military duty when reporting your monthly Current Employment Statistics (CES) survey figures.

A frequently asked question from CES reporters lately is:

Question: *How should we be reporting military reservists who are called up to active duty?*

There are three scenarios that apply to this question:

1. The employee is not working for or receiving pay from his civilian employer for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month.
2. The employee is not working for or receiving pay from his civilian employer for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month, but still receives benefits.
3. The employee is not working for his civilian employer for the pay period that includes the 12th of the month, but is receiving some pay for that pay period.

Answer: *In scenarios 1 and 2, do not count military reservists as employed.*

The Definitions and Instructions section located on the back of the CES form details what is to be included or excluded in Column [1] All Employees: The exclusion statement states that "All employees excludes...armed forces personnel on active duty during the entire pay period." In scenarios 1 and 2, military reservists on active duty during

the entire pay period who are not receiving any pay are not counted as employed for that pay period.

Answer: *In scenario 3, do count military reservists as employed.*

The Definitions and Instructions section located on the back of the CES form details what is to be included or excluded in Column [1] All Employees: The inclusion statement states that "All employees includes...Persons on other paid leave." In scenario 3, military reservists on active duty during the entire pay period who are receiving any pay are counted as employed for that pay period. Any person, including military reservists, on any type of paid leave should be included.

In summary:

If military reservists are not receiving any pay during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month, they are not counted as employed for that pay period.

If military reservists are receiving any pay, i.e. vacation pay, sick pay, administrative leave, or any other paid leave, during the pay period that includes the 12th of the month, they are counted as employed for that pay period.

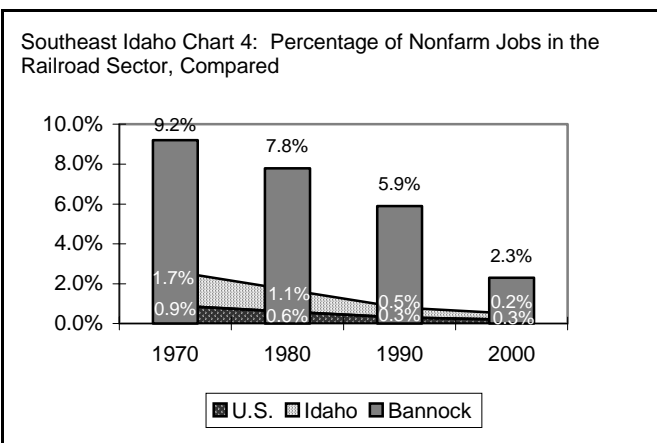
Les Smart, Research Analyst, Principal
E-mail: lsmart@jobservice.us
317 W. Main Street, Boise, ID 83735
(208) 332-3570, ext. 3200

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merger changed the geography of the system and consolidated services, which moved railroad jobs away from Bannock County to locations where it optimized operational efficiency of the new system.

Railroad jobs in the U.S. and in Idaho represent a much smaller share of total nonfarm jobs and the change has not

been as drastic. In the U.S., railroad jobs represented just 0.9 percent of all nonfarm jobs in 1970. By 2000, that percentage decreased to just 0.3 percent, a change of just 0.6 percentage points. In Idaho, railroad jobs represented 1.7 percent of all nonfarm jobs in 1970. By 2000, that percentage decreased to 0.2 percent, a change of 1.5 percent. The railroad's relative importance to Bannock County's economy is much greater than it is in Idaho; and the railroad's relative importance to Idaho is greater than it is in the U.S.



Shelley Allen, Regional Labor Economist
430 N. 5th Avenue, Pocatello, ID 83205
(208) 236-6710, ext. 3713
E-mail: sallan@jobservice.us